

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SCCT-01 IO-10 SAM-01 /066 W

----- 060076

R 040708Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBSSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHC 5111

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 0057

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IS, LE, SY

SUBJECT: ISRAELI PRESS REACTION TO LEBANESE-SYRIAN  
CONSULTATIONS

1. ADDRESSEES WILL HAVE SEEN DAO TEL AVIV REPORTS OF  
ACTIONS AND REACTIONS ON LEBANESE BORDER OVER PAST FEW  
DAYS. ISRAELI PRESS JAN 3 HIGHLIGHTS DISCUSSIONS  
PRECEDING DAY BETWEEN SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM AND  
LEBANESE PRESIDENT FRANJIH AND IMPENDING VISIT TO BEIRUT  
NEXT WEEK OF PRESIDENT ASAD. CONCLUSION DRAWN BY ALL  
WRITERS IS THAT THESE DISCUSSIONS INVOLVE POSSIBILITY OF  
SYRIAN MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO LEBANON IN FACE OF ISRAELI  
PENETRATIONS IN PURSUIT OF TERRORISTS.

2. DAVAR(ESHED) WRITES THAT IT IS HOPED IN JERUSALM THAT  
LEBANON WILL SUCCEED IN ADOPTING APPROPRIATELY MEASURED  
RESPONSE TO RECENT DEVELOPMENTS ON BORDER AND WILL NOT  
PURSUE CLOSER RELATIONS WITH SYRIAN TO POINT OF DANGER FOR  
LEBANON ITSELF. YEDYOT CITES "OBSERVERS IN JERUSALEM" AS  
BELIEVING THAT GOL IS INTERESTED IN RECEIVING SYRIAN ARMS  
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BUT DOES NOT WANT SYRIAN TROOPS ON ITS TERRITORY DUE TO ITS

FEAR OF STRONG ISRAELI REACTION.

3. MEANWHILE MAARIV(SEGEV, FROM WASHINGTON) REPORTS THAT LEBANON HAS ASKED USG TO PRESS ISRAELIS TO HALT IDF PENETRATIONS INTO LEBANON FOR PURPOSE OF PURSUING TERRORISTS. SEGEV ADDS THAT ACCORDING TO "KNOWLEDGEABLE SOURCES" LEBANESE OFFICIALS ARE CLAIMING IN THEIR CONTACTS WITH USG THAT ANY EFFORT TO STOP FEDAYEEN INFILTRATIONS WILL RESULT IN CONFRONTATION BETWEEN LEBANESE ARMY AND PALESTININAS WHICH IN TURN COULD LEAD TO SYRIAN INTERVENTION. SEGEV NOTES THIS IS NOT FIRST TIME THAT GOL HAS REFUSED TO COMMIT ITSELF TO PREVENT TERRORIST INFILTRATIONS.

4. COMMENT: MANNER WITH WHICH ISRAELI PRESS HAS SEIZED ON HIGH-LEVEL DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN LEBANESE AND SYRIAN OFFICIALS IN CONTEXT OF ACTIVITY ALONG NORTHERN BORDER REFLECTS CONJUNCTION OF TWO PREVALENT STRAINS OF THOUGHT HERE--THAT GOL IS WEAK GOVERNMENT UNABLE TO ASSERT AUTHORITY IN ITS OWN COUNTRY AND THAT SYRIAN REMAINS POTENTIALLY MOST EXTREME AND DANGEROUS OF ALL ARAB NEIGHBORS. SUSPICION OF WHAT IS IN OFFING WILL REMAIN HIGH UNTIL OUTCOME OF TALKS IS KNOWN, (FACT THAT MOST RECENT BORDER INCIDENTS APPARENTLY TOOK PLACE ENTIRELY WITHIN LEBANESE TERRITORY IS GENERALLY VIEWED HERE AS CARRYING FIGHT TO ENEMY, WITH DISTINCTION BETWEEN TERRORISM AND GOL SOMEWHAT BLURRED IN IDENTIFYING ENEMY). WE WOULD APPRECIATE COMMENTS FROM EMBASSIES BEIRUT AND DAMASCUS ON THESE CONSULTATIONS, WITH EMPHASIS ON POSSIBLE EFFECT ON SITUATION ON ISRAELI NORTHERN BORDER.  
KEATING

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